

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
September 14, 2009

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Lindsey, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer  
Excused: Koehn

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the minutes of the August 24, regular meeting with the addition of a comma. Motion to approve as amended passed with all in favor except Clouette, Duffy and Schaefer who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Amendment to Mansfield Park Rules and Regulations  
Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente presented an update on the use of signs and banners by athletic organizations in Town. Mr. Vincente commented that currently Youth football uses in ground signs on game day. Little League is reevaluating their sponsorship approach and will probably use a combination of banners and uniforms.  
No additional comments were presented.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, presented comments on the Parking Steering Committee for the Storrs Center Project and asked that the study provided by Mr. Hill of Walker Parking be handed out to all Steering Committee members. Comments attached

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, questioned the use of compensatory time by two individuals. Council members were in agreement that identifying individual employees was out of order. Such issues should be discussed with the Town Manager. Ms. Wassmundt again requested the Council review the practice of contributing to the Town Manager's ICMA pension fund.

V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Distributed

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Amendment to Mansfield Park Rules and Regulations  
Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Nesbitt seconded to approve the amendments to the Mansfield Code Chapter A194 as presented to allow for the location of temporary program sponsorship signe/banners at the new Mansfield Skate Park.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Haddad who voted nay.

3. Community/Campus Relations

Mayor Paterson reported on future actions agreed to by the Community Quality of Life Committee which include: presentation of proposed parking regulations to the Council; additional research on a parking registration and tenant registry; a possible change to the definition of "family, and an inventory by staff of various local ordinances regarding the quality of life and their relevant enforcement history. Council members discussed the difficulty the Committee has had with attaining a quorum for their meetings and agreed to look at the role of Council members on this Committee as part of a larger discussion of Committee assignments. This discussion will take place after the election.

4. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

Mayor Paterson asked that this subject be discussed at the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting at which time relevant staff members will be available. By consensus the Council agreed.

5. Open Space Analysis for November 2009 Bond Referendum

Council members discussed the material on open space provided in the packet, including some apparent inconsistencies in the figures and concern with the age of the data. Ms. Lindsey, who is in favor of open space, asked if unintended consequences, as a result of open space acquisitions, are being tracked by staff. Ms. Lindsey will provide a list of these questions to the Manager. Members discussed the timing of having information available prior to the election and whether this information could be disseminated. Mr. Nesbitt requested information on how much of the land acquired over the years is developable and what improvements to existing properties are indicated for maximum use of the land. Mr.

Haddad presented information showing that there is a wish list in the Capital Improvement Plan that identifies about a million dollars in projects, which would now be permitted using the open space bonding authorization, and a \$300,000 wish list for open space parcels. As a consequence he feels any analysis should not be just the cost benefit ratio of open space but should include the other considerations now allowed. A discussion of the intrinsic value of open space, the determination of how much developable land is in any parcel and, and the difficulty in determining how open space impacts the Town's PILOT money ensued.

Mayor Paterson requested that all Council members submit a list of the information they would like to know to the Town Manager in the next couple of days. By consensus the Council agreed to have all questions in to the Town Manager by Wednesday morning.

6. Establishment of Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolution establishing a Parking Steering Committee:

**WHEREAS**, on August 10, 2009, the Mansfield Town Council approved a resolution to establish a parking steering committee for Storrs Center; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 10, 2009, the Town Council approved a resolution to appoint members to the parking steering committee:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The following members are appointed to the Storrs Center Parking Steering Committee:

- Ralph Pemberton, Director, Building and Grounds, Regional School District #19
- Martha Funderburk, Acting Manager, Parking Services for the University of Connecticut
- Karla Fox, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Planning and Design Committee member
- Manny Haidous, representing the owners of University Plaza
- Michael Taylor, representing the Town's Transportation Advisory Committee and the owner of Storrs Commons
- Melinda Perkins, Windham Region Transit District (WRTD) Administrator

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mr. Nesbitt moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to appoint Meredith Lindsey as a Town Council representative to the Parking Steering Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 7. Proclamation in Recognition of Fire Prevention Week

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective September 14, 2009, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation in Recognition of Fire Prevention Week.

In response to Councilor Schaefer's request for the Council to write a letter to the editor emphasizing the importance of Items 3, 4 and 5 of the proclamation, Fire Marshal John Jackman outlined his plans for a campaign to reach 5,000 homes in Town. These plans include a letter to the editor, a press release and the distribution of a self-inspection checklist for homes. By consensus the Council agreed with this plan of action. Mayor Paterson asked the proclamation also be sent to the Fire Houses as a show of support.

The motion to approve the proclamation passed unanimously.

### 8. Letter of Interest – William Caspar Graustein Fund

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective September 14, 2009 that the Town Council authorize the Mayor to submit a Letter of Interest to the William Caspar Graustein Foundation to apply for funding under the Discovery initiative for the period 2010-2014.

Director of Human Services Kevin Grunwald described the uses of the grant money received as part of the Discovery Initiatives over the last eight years. This letter of interest does not obligate the Town to the required matching funds but signifies interest in pursuing the next step in the process, which is implementation of the plan.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

## VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Quarterly reports handed out at this meeting will be discussed at the next meeting.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Clouette, Finance Committee Chair, announced the Committee would be meeting next week to discuss the effects of the state budget. Mr. Clouette also commented that, as Finance Chair, he was fully aware the previously approved open space bonding was about to expire. The Town had been able to fund its open space purchases from other sources. The new referendum will be an opportunity for the public to again express their will.

Ms. Duffy Chair of the Committee on Committees presented the following recommendation to the Council:

Parks Advisory Committee – Alfred Montoya  
Recreational Advisory Committee – Michael Gerald  
Housing Board of Appeals (full members) – Will Bigl and Brian McCarthy  
Mansfield Advocates for Children – Lisa Young  
Sustainability Committee – Lisa Stafford  
Motion to approve recommendations passed unanimously.

Ms. Duffy reported that by using technology the Committee has been able to increase exposure to volunteer opportunities and there are even waiting lists for some of the committees. Mayor Paterson thanked the Committee members, especially Ms. Duffy, for their work.

Mr. Clouette reported on the Volunteer Recognition event at the Picnic Palooza. The rain dampened attendance but ribbons and thanks were extended to those who attended. Mr. Clouette plans to write a letter to the editor thanking all volunteers in Town.

Personnel Committee Chair Gregory Haddad announced that the Town Manager's review would be discussed at the executive discussion this evening. Mr. Haddad also stated that the Committee's discussion regarding the use of compensatory time is not yet complete. Interested citizens are welcome to attend the Personnel Committee meetings.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson called the 6<sup>th</sup> year of Celebrate Mansfield Weekend a resounding success and thanked all the volunteers for the tremendous effort they put forth. The Mayor was especially pleased with the increase in attendance of teenagers as a result of the dunking tank and

the entertainment. She also called this weekend a wonderful example of collaboration between the Town and the University.

Mr. Nesbitt requested information on recent activities at Carriage House and whether or not any violations were issued. Fire Marshal John Jackman stated that preliminary information shows that 25 violations of various ordinances were issued in the last week and a half. A full report will be compiled after October 31, 2009.

#### XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

9. M. Hart re: Restoration of Passenger Rail Service to Eastern Connecticut
10. Mansfield's \$500 Energy Challenge
11. Mansfield Skate Park Grand Opening
12. T. Veillette re: Hunting Lodge Road Bikeway/Walkway
13. Mansfield Downtown Partnership re: Festival on the Green
14. United Transportation Union "Finally, a rail plan for New England" – 08-24-09
15. Windham Chamber of Commerce Northeast CT Tourism Development Plan
16. Chronicle "Birch Road Bikeway set for construction" – 09-01-09
17. Chronicle "Council seeks funds for trooper supplies" – 08-28-09
18. Chronicle "Editorial: We offer these threads, needles" – 08-31-09
19. Chronicle "Fire captain adds another title – deputy fire marshal" – 09-05-09
20. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 09-03-09
21. Chronicle "Mansfield debates open space information" – 08-27-09
22. Chronicle "Mansfield probate district may grow" – 08-26-09
23. Chronicle "Oops, Mansfield lets \$1M bonds lapse" – 08-25-09
24. Chronicle "State to host hearing on transportation issues" – 08-31-09
25. Chronicle "The students are coming back" – 08-21-09
26. 18. Chronicle "Voters to decide \$3.46M package" – 08-29-09

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, revisited the discussion of the JAG funding for shotguns and asked when the last time a firearm was discharged in Town.

He also questioned the need for bikes and sound meters. Mr. Hossack would also like his taxes lowered.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, questioned the need to purchase the Moss Sanctuary since, in his opinion, the land has no potential for development.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked for clarification on appointments to the Ethics Committee.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

None

Mr. Schaefer left at 9:35 p.m.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to recess the meeting and move into executive session to discuss the Town Manager's Performance Evaluation

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Town Manager's Performance Evaluation

Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Lindsey, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in public session.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor  
Clerk

Mary Stanton, Town